

APR 01 2003

Leading
FILE

Mr. Roger A. Hansen, State Conservationist
USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service
Parkdale Center, Suite 250
601 Business Loop 70 West
Columbia, MO 65303

Dear Mr. Hansen:

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Little Otter Creek Watershed Plan in
Caldwell County, MO.

This letter is to confirm that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the FEIS for the Little Otter Creek Watershed Plan dated March 5, 2003. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The FEIS was assigned the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) number 030117.

Our review of the April 2002 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project resulted in a rating of "LO" (Lack of Objections). The rating was based on the preferred alternative for the watershed plan meeting the overall purpose and need of the project. In that review EPA provided comments related to land acquisition, watershed conservation programs, and aquatic habitat to improve the decision-making value of the FEIS. After the review of this final document, EPA observes that these issues have been revisited.

EPA commends the work of all those persons and agencies involved in the process leading to the development of the FEIS. We would also like to extend our help to land owners in the project area by providing watershed educational assistance through EPA's Clean Water Act Section 319 Water Quality Program. If you have any questions or concerns about the NEPA process or the §319 Water Quality Program, please contact me at (913) 551-7805.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Rocha
NEPA Reviewer
Environmental Services Division

bcc: Pete Davis, WWPD/GPCB

030093.032703.FEISOtterCreek.wpd:dmathis:3/28/03

ENSV/IO	ENSV/IO
Rocha	Cothorn